



APD NEWS

Public Information Office: (512) 974-5017

715 E. 8th St. Austin, Texas 78701

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 29, 2009

Contact: Public Information Office, 974-5017

APD Auto and Burglary Theft Prevention Programs during Watch Your Car Month

Every year in Texas tens of thousands of individuals lose their identity, transportation, safety and well-being due to vehicle-related crimes. They experience these crimes right in front of their homes and in mall, daycare, hospital or fitness center parking lots. It's a known fact...Where you go, vehicle criminals go, too. Yet, most of these crimes could have been prevented if drivers would take the few extra moments to hide their belongings, lock their vehicles and take their keys.

During the month of July, "Watch Your Car Month," APD will host several prevention programs. Residents can have their vehicle identification numbers (VIN) etched for free on the vehicle's windows. Additionally, they can register their vehicles with the Help End Auto Theft (H.E.A.T.) program.

07/01/09	Target Southpark Meadows, 9500 S. IH-35	10am – 1pm
07/08/09	University of Texas – Disch-Faulk Stadium parking lot	10am – 1pm
07/11/09	Target Ben White – 2300 W. Ben White Blvd.	10am – 1pm
07/22/09	Target Lakeline – 10900 Lakeline Mall Blvd.	10am - 1pm

All vehicles have a federally assigned vehicle identification number (VIN). The etching of a VIN on the windows of a vehicle deters thieves because it is more difficult to dispose of property that is identifiable. It is time-consuming and expensive for thieves to replace windows that have been marked with the VIN.

H.E.A.T. is a statewide vehicle registration program that helps law enforcement agencies identify stolen vehicles. Vehicle owners who normally do not use their cars between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. sign an agreement allowing officers to stop the vehicles and verify ownership if the vehicle is being driven during those hours.

These programs are funded through the Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority, a division of the Texas Department of Transportation, to reduce auto and burglary theft in the State of Texas.



APD NEWS

Public Information Office: (512) 974-5017

715 E. 8th St. Austin, Texas 78701

Media Advisory: On July 1, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. officers will be available for interview in the Target parking lot in Southpark Meadows. Please call APD PIO if you plan to attend.

###

